GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:342
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2009
VILLAGE PUBLIC TELEPHONES
Kataria Shri Lal Chand

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has achieved the targets fixed for the Village Public Telephones (VPTs) during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the performance of the public and private sectors in this regard; and

(d) the strategy chalked out to implement the VPT scheme more vigorously?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 342 FOR 14TH DECEMBER, ON "VILLAGE PUBLIC TELEPHONES".

(a) to (c) No, Madam. A target was set to cover all the villages by VPTs in the first year of Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007). Out of a total of 5,93,601 inhabited villages, as per Census 2001, 5,10,733 villages (about 84%) were provided with VPTs by December 2002. The share of public and private sector was 5,03,610 VPTs and 7,123 VPTs respectively. Those villages having population less than 100, lying in deep forests/difficult terrain, affected with insurgency, non-traceable, submerged in water could not be provided with VPTs.

(d) As on 31.10.2009, out of a total of 5,93,601 inhabited villages as per Census 2001, 5,62,152 villages (about 95%) have been provided with VPTs.

It has been decided to cover all the remaining inhabited villages with VPTs through subsidy support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) in a phased manner by February, 2011.